

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 HEW-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /083 W

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R 082306Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3185

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PAHO, SWEL, MX

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF PAHO

REF: STATE 167815

1. US SUPPORT OF GOM CANDIDATE DR. ACUNA CONVEYED BY
EMB NOTE TO FONSECRETARIAT AUGUST 2. AMB ALSO MENTIONED
MATTER IN MEETING SAME DAY WITH FONSEC RABASA, WHO GRATIFIED
US DECISION. IN ADDITION SCICOUNS ADVISED ACUNA PERSONALLY.
HE MOST PLEASED, REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH AMB. POL
ALSO ADVISED GONZALEZ GALVEZ, FONSECRETARIAT DG INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WHO HAD NOT HEARD OF US DECISION,
MOST PLEASED.

2. AMB RECEIVED ACUNA AUGUST 7. IN COURSE CONVERSATION
LATTER REITERATED EXPRESSION APPRECIATION FOR USG SUPPORT,
ADDING THAT HE FELT SURE THIS WOULD HELP GREATLY IN
INSTANCE CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY EUROPEAN AND
COMMONWEALTH NATIONS WHO HAD NOT YET MADE THEIR DECISION.
HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY UK, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, BRASIL,
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CANADA, COSTA RICA, TRINIDAD TOBAGO.

3. INsofar AS PRESENT STATUS HIS CANDIDACY, CONCERNING WHICH HE OPTIMISTIC, HE SAID THAT MEXICO NOW HAD NINE SURE VOTES, INCLUDING BESIDES THE US AND MEXICO: CUBA, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, GUAYANA, HAITI, NECARAGUA, EL SALVADOR, ALL CONFIRMED BY DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS; THAT SUPPORT HAS BEEN PROMISED INFORMALLY BY BARBADOS, BOLIVIA, HONDURAS, JAMAICA AND THE NETHERLANDS, WITH CONFIRMATION BY DIPLOMATIC NOTES BEING AWAITED; THAT CHILE HAD FIVE VOTES FOR ITS CANDIDATE, INCUMBENT HOROWITZ, BESIDES ITS OWN, THE OTHERS BEING: ARGENTINA, PANAMA (BOTH COMMITMENTS HAVING BEEN MADE TWO YEARS AGO), DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY, AND GOM DOESN'T THINK THEY WILL GET ANY MORE; THAT MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF BOTH ARGENTINA AND PANAMA ARE PRESSURING THEIR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN OFFICES FOR A SWITCH TO MEXICO'S CANDIDATE ON FIRST VOTE, PREFERABLY, BUT DEFINITELY ON SECOND; THAT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, VIEW QUOTA ARREARS, MAY NOT EVEN ATTEND CONFERENCE; THAT VENEZUELA SEEMS TO HAVE COMMITMENTS ONLY FROM PARAGUAY (IN EXCHANGE GOV SUPPORT FOR PARAGUAYAN CANDIDATE (OAS SYG) AND PERU, AND THAT THEY MAY WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATE FOR PAHO POST; THAT HE VISITING BAHAMAS LATER THIS WEEK, WILL VISIT PANAMA EN ROUTE BOGOTA ON AUGUST 17, CONTINUING ON TO CARACAS. HE HAS MADE PRIOR TRIPS RECENTLY SAME PURPOSE.

4. IT OBVIOUS THEREFORE GOM HAS MOUNTED STRONG DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE ELECTION THEIR CANDIDATE.

5. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUERY ABOUT REACTIONS TO FACT THAT MEXICO, IF ACUNA CANDIDACY SUCCESSFUL, WOULD HAVE THREE TOP POSITIONS INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING PRESIDENCY IADB, HE SAID THAT IN HIS MANY CONVERSATIONS THIS MENTIONED ONLY BY GUAYANA; THAT PRINCIPAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN TO EFFECT THAT INCUMBENT DG HAS HAD POST 16 YEARS, TIME RIPE FOR CHANGE.

6. CONCERNING HIS PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ENDEAVOR SEEK STATUTORY LIMITATION ON DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP FOR TWO TERMS ONLY, SINCE PRESENT SYSTEM
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LENDS ITSELF TO BUREAUCRATIC ENTRENCHMENT--HE CITED CASES OF MANY ON STAFF WHO SEEM HAVE NO REAL PART IN AGENCY'S ACTION PROGRAMS--AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO SEEK TRIM STAFF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND THUS HAVE MORE EFFECIENT ORGANIZATION.
JOVA

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